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**To: Business Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Subject: Coventry Station Masterplan Update**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide Scrutiny Board 3 with an update on progress of the Coventry Station Masterplan.

**2 Recommendations**

Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board are recommended:

- (i) To note the contents of the report;
- (ii) To make any recommendations for further consideration by the Cabinet Member (Jobs and Regeneration).

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 Coventry has the fastest growing railway station in terms of passenger numbers outside London and is a key gateway to the city. It is one of the busiest stations on the West Coast Mainline after London and Birmingham New Street and yet since the current station was built in 1962 it has seen very little investment or updating.
- 3.2 To address this challenge, the Coventry Station Masterplan was approved by Cabinet in March 2015. It aims to deliver transformational improvements to Coventry Station and will also support the wider regeneration and connectivity of the Friargate development.
- 3.3 The proposals are linked to completion of the Friargate masterplan and have been developed in consultation with the rail industry and Friargate LLP. They also form part of the City Centre Area Action Plan and the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan as part of an overarching economic regeneration strategy.
- 3.4 Since March 2015 the scheme has been developed further. The City Council has been working with Network Rail, the wider rail industry and Coventry & Warwickshire LEP to identify proposals and a preferred option and secure funding to improve the station and increase capacity. This work remains ongoing and any final decisions will be subject to a further report to Cabinet at a later date.
- 3.5 In terms of the preliminary proposals they seek to deliver new capacity and accessibility within the station through the provision of a new footbridge between platforms; a new

station building which can be accessed from platform level and Warwick Road; replacement and additional car parking and passenger drop off facilities; and a new high quality public transport interchange. To support overall connectivity to Coventry Station and to Friargate, opportunities are also being explored for the integration of a potential future rapid transit system which will connect the city centre to the University of Warwick and eventually serve connections further afield.

- 3.6 The works will be delivered in conjunction with NUCKLE 1.2, a 'sister' scheme, which provides a new bay platform; associated track and signalling works; and an enhanced train service between Coventry and Nuneaton. This will also improve train service performance and provides reliability benefits.
- 3.7 To date the focus of the work has been on design optioneering and completion of concept designs. The emphasis has been on high quality design which respects the heritage of the existing Grade 2 listed building in order to make Coventry an attractive station able to compete with neighbouring stations across the region.
- 3.8 Construction of the first phase of works has commenced on a pedestrian access under Warwick Road and progress is being made on the delivery of NUCKLE 1.2. Extensive traffic modelling work has also been undertaken to ensure the new station infrastructure is supported by an effective highway layout.
- 3.9 The Station Masterplan improvements are expected to be supported by funding from Network Rail to provide enhancements to the existing station buildings. This is complemented by the recent improvements to the station forecourt area and Station Square undertaken by the City Council and Friargate LLP.
- 3.10 An external funding package is being sought to deliver the remaining aspects of the Station Masterplan which could include Growth Deal, Integrated Transport Block and Devolution Deal.
- 3.11 Any formal decisions in terms of design, scope and funding will be subject to further Cabinet approval.

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